

# THE STUNNING SOUTHWEST

October 1 to 10, 2018 - 10 Days

Sponsored by:

St. Joseph Museum and Dr. Jimmy Albright



*Capture the stunning spirit of New Mexico with this enchanting tour. From the very first day you will view some of the most beautiful & historical areas of the great Southwest. The impressive Sandia Mountains, are truly the gateway to the Land of Enchantment. Not only the scenery but the Balloon Festival, with its unbelievable parade of hot air balloons will thrill you, along with the thousands who come along to enjoy the launches and balloon glows. Nowhere in the state is the diversity of culture, the combination of old and new, more dramatic than throughout the Santa Fe & Albuquerque areas.*

## Proposed Itinerary

**Day 1 - DEPART ST. JOSEPH** - Today we board our luxury motorcoach and head for the great Southwest! The miles will fly by as we journey to our destination. Overnight in Dodge City.

**Day 2 - ARRIVE IN NEW MEXICO** - Today we arrive in Santa Fe. We will have dinner and then check into our hotel. Rest up and get ready for the next 7 days in the Stunning Southwest!

**Day 3 - SANTA FE PLAZA & CANYON ROAD** - After breakfast we head for old Route 66 & the heart of Santa Fe to the Plaza, a National Historical Landmark. Old Route 66 runs through the Santa Fe Plaza. Along this route and around the Plaza are historic monuments, restaurants, businesses and art galleries, including the Georgia O'Keefe Museum, the Palace of the Governors (the oldest public building in the U.S.), the New Mexico Museum of Art, Cathedral Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi, and the Loretto Chapel. In true pueblo fashion, the Plaza architecture is traditional adobe. You'll have plenty of options as you have this morning free to indulge in a shopping spree or to visit these spectacular locations. Be sure to enjoy a tasty local lunch before you board the motorcoach and head to Canyon Road.

100 Years - 100 Galleries Explore the history of Santa Fe's art scene as you stroll historic Canyon Road. Gracious adobe architecture gives Canyon Road its old-world charm. Whether you prefer art that is contemporary, abstract, modern, expressionistic, figurative, photorealistic, traditional, western or Native American, it's all here. Galleries showcase paintings in oil, acrylic, watercolor, and encaustic, fine-art photography, graphics such as lithographs, serigraphs, giclées, woodcuts, engravings, and monotypes, as well as sculpture in stone, bronze, wood, and glass. An artist colony in its early history, Santa Fe still attracts painters and sculptors who work in studios along Canyon Road and invite the public to watch them at work. Dinner included tonight at Canyon Road.



**Day 4 - RIO GRANDE GORGE & TAOS PUEBLO** - Today we drive north to the picturesque Taos, nestled in the foothills. The unsurpassed light of northern New Mexico has drawn artists to Taos since the 19th century. Along the way we'll stop for a spectacular photo op along the Rio Grande Gorge and time to admire this natural marvel. Then it on our way to Taos Pueblo. Designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, this Pueblo dates from the 14th century and is one of the oldest continuously habited settlements in North America. The lovely mission church of San Geronimo dates from 1850. We arrive at Taos Plaza where we have made arrangements for a lovely group lunch before setting out and exploring the variety of museums, galleries and specialty shops. You will have plenty of time to roam this beautiful Plaza before we return to Santa Fe for the night. Dinner tonight is on your own.

**Day 5 - BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT** - This morning we head to the Bandelier National Monument, which is best known for its mesas, sheer-walled canyons, and the ancestral Pueblo dwellings found among them. We will visit this fascinating archeological site situated at 7,000 feet above sea level. It encompasses over 32,000 acres of wilderness crisscrossed by 60 miles of maintained trails. The Park was designated in 1916 and named for 19th century anthropologist Adolph Bandelier.

Frijoles Canyon is famous for extensive Anasazi ruins and cliff dwellings that date back about 1100 AD. The Anasazi farmed this canyon for over 400 years and lived in multi-storied stone and mud structures or in caves carved out of volcanic cliffs. Even if you are not an archaeological enthusiast you will enjoy climbing the ladders into the caves and kivas.



We continue to Los Alamos, selected by the Federal Government as the site of the top-secret Manhattan Project in 1942. Here we will stop for lunch. Next, we visit the Bradbury Science Museum which was operated by the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). At the museum you will learn how scientists are using the latest technologies to deal with the complex changes of today's world including of national security, energy transportation and commercial applications. There are science demonstrations, DNA fingerprinting and even a laser you can play with! Return to our last night in Santa Fe.

**Day 6 - CHACO CANYON** - This morning we say goodbye to Santa Fe and head to Chaco Culture National Historic Park.

This is the site of the greatest Architectural achievement of the American Indians. It was the main social & ceremonial center of the Anasazi culture and flourished 1000 years ago. Anasazi is a Navajo word meaning "Ancient Ones" and is a term of archeologists used to refer to a culture that began nearly 2,500 years ago. The complex system of homes and roads, an abundance of turquoise jewelry and cryptic petro-glyphs are the intriguing legacy of a people who mysteriously disappeared 700 years ago. Tonight, we begin our 3-night stay in Albuquerque.

**Day 7 - ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA** - Today is the day! We're off to the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. We start off EARLY with the Morning Mass Ascension and end the day at the Evening Glow. From a small gathering of 13 balloons in 1972, the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta has grown to become the largest balloon event in the world. Held each year during the first week in October, the Balloon Fiesta fills the October skies with hundreds of unusual and whimsical hot air balloons. In order to preserve the magic of these spectacular events, it is estimated that more than 25 million still photographs are taken of the Balloon Fiesta, repeatedly earning it the title "the world's most photographed event." The Morning Mass Ascension, a launch of all the participating balloons has been a feature of Balloon Fiesta since its earliest days and is the most spectacular display of sound and color in all of aviation. During mass ascensions, balloons launch in two waves. Weather permitting, balloons begin to launch at about 7:00 AM on mass ascension days, led by a balloon flying the American flag to the strains of The Star Spangled Banner. After the morning mass ascensions, you'll head back to the hotel and freshen up & have lunch near the hotel. We'll be back this afternoon to stroll the Fiesta & watch the Evening Balloon Glow!

The Evening Balloon Glow lights up the sky like nothing else and is followed by New Mexico's most spectacular fireworks displays - now among Balloon Fiesta's most popular events.

**Day 8 - MUSEUM OF NATIONAL HISTORY & OLD TOWN** - We begin our morning with a visit to the New Mexico Museum of Natural History. We'll walk through an active volcano, tour a cool ice age cave and visit the largest dinosaurs that ever lived. Our next stop is historic Old Town, considered to be the heart of the city's heritage. Shops clustered around a central plaza which was the original Albuquerque are filled with silver and turquoise jewelry. There will be time for lunch on your own and shopping in this charming place.

This afternoon we will visit the Turquoise Museum; perhaps the largest collection in the world. A novel attraction, this small museum focuses on the beauty, mythology and physical properties of turquoise. This semi-precious stone is widely adored as many understandably associate the color with New Mexico's skies. See one-of-a-kind show pieces and examples from more than 60 mines on 4 continents.



Enjoy an informative and entertaining presentation that will show you the difference between plastic and the real McCoy. Tonight, our group gathers for a breathtaking evening view and our final farewell dinner. We will be going to the spectacular Bien Shur Rooftop Restaurant at the Sandia Resort & Casino. Enjoy a fantastic meal prepared just for you, and after stroll the gorgeous grounds or try your luck at the casino before heading back to our final night's stay in Albuquerque.



**Day 9 - SANDIA PEAK TRAMWAY THEN HEAD FOR HOME** - Today we depart Albuquerque. But before we say our final goodbye we will visit the Cibola National Forest and Sandia Peak. We're off for an exciting ride on the Sandia Peak Tramway, an aerial tram that ascends to the top of 10,000 feet Sandia Peak. The 2.7 miles ride is the longest clear and unsupported span in North America and the view is spectacular. From there we continue on our journey home. Tonight we overnight in Guymon, OK.

**Day 10 - ARRIVE IN ST JOSEPH** - Today we travel our final stretch of road and arrive back home. It was a journey home filled with memories of the Stunning Southwest!

**Trip Cost: \$2749** per person in double room  
**Single room** – add \$739

**Not including:** Tips \$110, Meals & Drinks not mentioned and Optional travel insurance \$172



**For More Information Please Contact:**

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